

Approved on April 17, 2012

MINUTES

MID-COUNTY CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2012

Members Present: Robin Brannan, Eileen Cahill, Barbara Hueter, Gregory Intoccia, Kieran McHargue, Steve Morrison, Richard Newman, Robert Shoenberg, Ariel Winter, Brenita Young. Gam Wijetunge called into the meeting.

Members Absent: Theresa Bell, Karla Fortunato, Craig Long.

Staff Present: Ana Lopez van Balen

Guests: MCFRS Chief Richie Bowers; Tiffany Ward, Council Staff for Marc Elrich; Adam Fogel, Council Staff for Nancy Navarro; Esther French, Patch; Greg Ossont, Deputy Director for DGS.

Call to Order: Rick Newman, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes:

There was a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded and approved. The draft minutes were presented for review and approval. Members discussed the draft minutes. Mr. Steve Morrison raised concern that adequate time was not provided to review the draft minutes prior to the meeting. Mr. Robert Shoenberg commented that the draft minutes did not include enough substance and detail. The board discussed the guidance for minutes provided by the County and that minutes taken are not to be a transcription. Another motion was made for the minutes of the February 21st meeting to be approved, which was seconded and approved.

Community Concerns: None.

Old Business:

Eviction Process:

Mr. Steve Morrison revisited the subject of the eviction process conducted by the Sheriff's office and expressed concerns on the treatment of citizens undergoing the process and how their belongings are dealt with. Ms. Eileen Cahill suggested that MCCAB contact the DHCA to explain the process to the board. Rick Newman suggested that the item be vetted within the Quality of Life committee. Mr. Robert Shoenberg volunteered to contact the Sheriff's Office and invite a representative to present the approach at an upcoming meeting.

CIP and Fire Station 18 Update:

Fire Station 18: The board received an update on the Fire Station 18 project from MCFRS Chief Richie Bowers and Mr. Greg Ossont from Department of General Services (DGS). Mr. Ossont explained that Mandatory Referral was denied for the project due to concerns with the design and specifically the exit and entrance plans for the station. The design is now under review for

alternatives. The County has asked WMATA for an additional year to accommodate the County's review of the design prior to its purchase of the land where the station is planned to be built. DGS stated that any changes made to the existing design would be presented to the public and MCCAB prior to presentation to National Capital Park and Planning (NCPP).

Mr. Ariel Winter inquired about the original design and raised concerns regarding the exit and entrance plan and specifically how fire trucks will be exiting on to Glenallan Avenue. MCCAB recommended that DGS consult with State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding the plan and also provide information to the board and community to review regarding the continuity of operations for the existing station. It was also stressed that any improvements to the interchange planned by SHA should take priority.

Mr. Robert Shoenberg requested that the traffic light sequencing at the interchange be analyzed as a possible solution to the entrance/exit plan issue—Chief Richie Bowers volunteered to share the request with Director Holmes for consideration. Ms. Eileen Cahill inquired about SHA's road improvement plans for the interchange and whether or not the fire station construction would be impeding that project's progress.

Wheaton Redevelopment Program: Mr. Ossont presented the County Executive's proposed plan for the Wheaton Redevelopment Program. Mr. Ossont described the phased approach and most notably the construction of a platform above the Wheaton Metro station on which future development of office space would be constructed. He noted the participation of B.F. Saul as a commercial investor in the plan.

Mr. Ossont noted that the County Council has submitted an alternative proposal of a different scope and timeline and that it is currently under review with DGS. By April 10, there will be more details available on the alternative proposal on which to update the community.

Mr. Steve Morrison raised concerns about traffic during future construction related to redevelopment and DGS responded that traffic studies were already completed in conjunction with redevelopment planning.

Bus Rapid Transit: Mr. Gregory Intoccia asked DSG about DOT's plan for bus rapid transit and revenue implications. Mr. Ossont discussed the revenue sharing plan and that it is negotiable.

Council Notes/State Report:

Mr. Adam Fogel with Council Member Navarro's staff updated the board regarding Wheaton redevelopment and small business assistance programs. Mr. Fogel noted that the Council will be meeting April 10 to discuss a "unified vision" for the Wheaton Redevelopment Program and that a draft PDF has been requested for review. The draft PDF will include funding for planning and design upfront, and construction in the out years.

Ms. Tiffany Ward with Council Member Elrich's staff updated the board on Wheaton Redevelopment Program, state and county budget issues and plans for the Wheaton Library and Recreation Center.

Director/Staff Report and Update from County Executive:

Ms. Ana Lopez van Balen reported that the Kensington Sector Plan was passed and the Glenmont Sector Plan is still under review. Ms. Van Balen informed the board that Walmart representatives will be presenting plans in May for public review. She also announced that MCCAB Selection Committee had interviewed and selected a candidate to fill the current vacancy on the board. She also noted that there will be future openings following the expiration of current members' terms. Ms. Van Balen requested the board to suggest nominees for the Citizen and Civic Association of the Year awards. Finally, she discussed the upcoming CERB assessment requirements and that the board needs to submit a report in 60 days describing its progress and accomplishments for the year.

Committee Chairs Report

Budget and Capital Improvement: Mr. Kieran McHargue reported on the Wheaton Redevelopment Program and deliberations held in committee. The committee drafted a letter regarding the CE's proposal and the alternative proposal presented by the County Council. The board discussed the letter and a motion was made to amend language. The motion was seconded and approved. A motion was made to approve the letter with the approved amendments. The motion was seconded and the amended letter was approved.

Mr. McHargue went on to discuss the upcoming County Council review and vote on the CE's Recommended Operating Budget for FY13. He recommended that board members review the Operating Budget through their committees and provide comments and recommendations to be added to a draft letter to the County Council. Mr. McHargue requested that board members provide comments to be added to the Budget Committee before its next meeting to be held on April 9. The County Council is scheduled to vote on the Operating Budget on May 25.

Land Use, Zoning & Transportation: Mr. Richard Newman reported that the committee discussed Bill ZTA12-01, 12-02, and 4-12 regarding big box store legislation. Mr. Newman also reported on the Living Wage bill.

Quality of Life: Ariel Winter reported that the committee met to discuss the Wheaton Library and Recreation Center development progress. Mr. Winter reported that the program has been accelerated and also provided details on the recent Council straw vote to approve funding for the program. Mr. Winter reported that the committee discussed the Wheaton Redevelopment Program and provided comments on the draft letter to be sent to the County Council. Finally, Mr. Winter reported that the committee compiled questions on the Fire Station 18 project and submitted them to DSG for response.

Liaison Reports

Department of Permitting Services Advisory Committee: did not meet.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee: Eileen Cahill reported that they did not meet. However, Ms. Cahill noted that a replacement liaison will need to be selected to fill the vacancy left when her term on the MCCAB ends in June.

There were no reports from the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee, the Wheaton Redevelopment Advisory Committee or the Mid-County Recreation Advisory Board.

New Business:

Safeway Construction Site Crane: Mr. Steve Morrison expressed concern regarding the new Safeway construction site on Georgia Avenue. Mr. Morrison noted that he has observed the site's large construction crane's arm is positioned directly over Georgia Avenue and hence raises safety concerns for traffic and pedestrians in the area. Mr. Morrison requested that the board contact the project's management to have the crane arm moved back over the site itself and that this should be the normal practice when construction ends each day. A motion was made to contact the Safeway project management to comment on this issue. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.